

ZAKO, Andras
Chief of MHBK

SECRET
INFORMATION

1 August 1952

CIC Salzburg
Ref. No. S-14417 TDK/jn

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| ACTION | IB | CIC | IC | OPNS |
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| RECORDS FILE | | | | |

The following information is a translation of a written report received on 21 July 1952 by this agent from Informant 3798-T (Evaluation: "C"), who obtained the information verbally from a conversation with SUBJECT on 17 July 1952, on which date SUBJECT arrived in Salzburg from Absam, Land Tirol, for conferences with Major BURGET, former Hungarian General, who is Chief of MHBK (MAGYAR HARCOSOK BAJTARSI KÖRÖZŐSÉGE - Hungarian Warriors Comradeship Federation) in Land Salzburg:

(Information: 3)

"ZAKO was dressed perfectly and according to the newest fashion, it could be seen that he picked the best. After several introductory sentences and a short formal conversation ZAKO asked me whether I knew what the reason was that he had not been granted a reception by the Americans and whether this was meant just for the present time or whether it should be considered to be a definitive decision. I told him that I did not know what the reason for this refusal was but that it was my personal impression that under given circumstances such a meeting could be arranged. Thereupon, ZAKO stated that he did not understand the Americans why they refuse to take notice of such an important organization as the MHBK. He stated that he was convinced that the meeting which had been planned was jeopardized by CIC. He also made bitter statements against KORPONAY who seems to have only one aim, and that is to compromise the MHBK and his (ZAKO's) name. ZAKO also stated that since he fired him, KORPONAY has lived on denunciations and the sale of information. He asked me whether I would have any idea who could have jeopardized his meeting here in Salzburg, who is so close to CIC to be able to do so. I told him that there was no jeopardizing involved since nobody knew about this planned meeting. In the course of the further conversation it came up that in spite of his promise BURGET told the others about it, that ZAKO is going to have a meeting with the Americans, and even talked about it over the telephone. ZAKO planned to convoke all the generals and colonels residing

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0 in Salzburg subsequently to his meeting with the Americans. He asked BURGET to prepare this for him. BURGET called up Lajos NADAS because of this and also mentioned the American meeting. It seems that towards the generals residing in Salzburg the meeting with the Americans was mentioned as a bait since ZAKO had known their (the generals') rejecting attitude toward him. In spite of this the local generals and colonels secluded themselves and this circumstance seemed to have deeply startled ZAKO. He gave out with a long monologue to the effect that he was considering the possibility of leaving the MHBK management and to retire but then he mentioned reasons why he could not do this. He referred to a meeting he had with a similar Polish military organization's chief which can be considered as one of the greatest results the MHBK ever had. He did not say it, but it could be assumed that at that meeting there were some obligations accepted by ZAKO. I, therefore, put the following question to him: "Did you accept any obligations, General?" He denied this very strongly, and stated that this was only one more calumination of the plot against him (here I have to state that I have never heard of this, but the effect of my question had proved that it was true.) Thereafter, ZAKO seemed to be very disheartened and tired. I thought I better ask some questions, and in order to put them in the right form, I tried to calm him, and stated that I would try to prepare an eventual newer meeting with the Americans. I emphasized that I could not make any promises, since the connections with the Americans which I have are strictly private ones, they originate from radio and refrigerator repairs; I stated that those gentlemen may listen to me since I have never asked them for anything yet. But since I have to expect that they would also ask questions from me if such a conversation would take place, I have to know the replies. I said "Allow me, General, to ask several questions from you".

1.) "Does the MHBK engage in intelligence work?"

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Reply: "This is a calumniation, I know that I am being accused of having sold the MHEK to the French. This is not true and it would be also impossible; because if the MHEK Hq. would engage in intelligence work I would have to move around, I would have to negotiate with different people, I would have to give the directives to the people, but I have neither the time nor the possibility for this. It is true that there are some groups which engage in intelligence activities for the French, the British but also for the Americans, and these persons are members of the MHEK, but I do not know about the work of these people, they do not report to me about it, as to what they are doing. There are groups about which I only know that they are doing intelligence work, but I do not know exactly for whom they are working."

2.) "How is the MHEK being supported?"

Reply: "The MHEK had financial difficulties not only recently but from its very beginning. We can hardly bring up the amount for publishing the "Radak Utja" paper and the cost for mailing it. We are paying for these expenses out of the incoming money for the newspaper and the support by the members."

I: "But there must be still some other expenses, i.e. there must be still some other money-sources for the travels, e.g. the trip to Paris, the hotel, etc., all this cannot be paid for only out of these funds."

ZAKO: "Well, yes, there are, our American members send money each month and besides some of the intelligence groups which have an over average income support the Hq. regularly. There is e.g. KOZENYI who has regularly sent \$50 a month, but since I have fired Miklos (KOMPONAY) he has stopped sending money. Out of this money the MHEK can secure its independence even though it is difficult."

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3.) "What would have been the purpose of the planned meeting?
Did you want to make some propositions to the Americans, General?"

Reply: "Nothing like this, I knew that the Americans believe that I might offer the service of the MHRK to them for intelligence purposes in one way or another; but I cannot do this since the MHRK, as I stated already, does not engage in intelligence activities, I cannot dispose of the various groups who do engage in such activities. I wanted to ask the Americans to give me a possibility to clarify those matters which had been brought up against me and the MHRK. I know that there are heaps of lies and calumniations piled up against me and the MHRK at higher American authorities. As the leader of the MHRK it is my duty to refute these lies and try to change the opinion of the Americans since they based it on these calumniations. Besides I wanted to offer the Americans the service of our defensive net spread all over the world. I wanted to give them detailed information as to where the MHRK has its agencies which know everything about everybody, etc."

I: "How come that this defensive organ did not work just here in Salzburg? It happened several times that just the MHRK recommended such persons for service with the Americans who had a shady past or who were even Communists. There are also persons who continue to be members of the MHRK even though they were convicted of criminal offenses and crimes by Austrian courts. The Americans also know this and it is also my opinion that the MHRK entirely lacks inner-selection."

BURGST: "As far as this is concerned here in Salzburg the situation is particularly bad. In spite of several attempts the Austrian authorities refused to give me any information as to why somebody was convicted, how he got into conflict with the Austrian law, etc."

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I: "It would be the interest of the MHBK to get rid of the trash finally, so I would like to give the following advice: I could forward a request for you, General, to the Americans, by which you would ask them in the name of the MHBK to bring it to the attention of the MHBK's local group as to who had been convicted either by Austrian or American authorities and the MHBK would bind itself to exclude those persons at once."

ZAKO: "I would be very glad about this, and we would naturally exclude those persons at once. I decisively want to take the responsibility for this."

I: "In spite of this I am afraid that the Americans will judge the value of the defensive organ on the basis of the local experiences, and if this organ is operating well at other places, then there must be something wrong here in Salzburg."

BURGET: (He held a long speech as to how much he was working, that he could not do more than he is, that nobody is paying him, if the Americans want more they should pay him for it.)

ZAKO: "O.K., Lajos, you don't have to take it this way, it would be the greatest trouble if you would retire, (i.e., if he would stop work), and everybody would know that the Americans pay for the MHBK."

I wanted to make an end to this unpleasant situation.

I stated: "To summarize everything: 1.) The MHBK does not engage in intelligence work; 2.) The MHBK does not have any such financial sources originating from political or military obligations, and they do not have any such obligations; 3.) The MHBK offers the services of the defensive organ without asking for any recompense, they accept to exclude the undesirable

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elements under the above mentioned circumstances; 4.) In case the planned meeting should take place you, General ZAKO will refute the assumed accusations directed against your person as well as against the MHBK; 5.) You would be willing to come here personally at once as soon as a date had been set for that meeting, and bring along the material necessary for the refutation."

ZAKO: "This is correct, I agree with this entirely. But now I would like to ask a question from you. Do you know a colonel by the name of HARBSON or DAWSON? As far as I know he is the man who makes difficulties whenever there is something connected with the MHBK. There is an Austrian woman around him who got married to an American recently, this woman collects material against the MHBK. She is a very beautiful woman, has green eyes."

I: "I have heard the name of this colonel, but I have never talked to him, and I do not know that woman."

ZAKO: "That is a pity." (I was under the impression that ZAKO was thinking of some attempt to approach through this woman.)

Therefore I again assured ZAKO that I would try anything I could to arrange for the meeting in his interest. ZAKO who left with the night train remained with BURGET still at the Goldene Rose, I left them at about 2035 hours.

The following day, on Friday, I had an appointment with Lajos NADAS at the Cafe Posthof for 1730 hours on account of an entirely different matter (KOBLEK case). I thought that NADAS was the most competent person to ask about MHBK matters. I asked him why he had left the MHBK. NADAS replied that he had participated in the organizing of the MHBK for more than 3 years. The MHBK had two main purposes: 1. to set up a military organization spread throughout the world; 2. as soon as this organization will become such that the Americans would consider it as an important and serious factor, everything should be done in order to have America recognize this

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organization. According to NADAS the first step was successful, and now the time was reached when there had to be done something because of the second step. In this regard ZAKO did not keep him up to date although he (ZAKO) mentioned him as his deputy to everybody. Various things ZAKO did, NADAS found out only later on, with most of them he did not agree, and did not want to take the responsibility half for them either. Therefore, he left the MHBK. I told NADAS about my meeting with ZAKO without informing him about the circumstances which had led to this meeting. NADAS knew that ZAKO was looking for connections, but he did not know anything about my part. As a private matter I told him about the conversation I have had with ZAKO, and hinted that perhaps something could be initiated in this case, and asked him what he would do? NADAS only stated: "I don't go into all the details either, but shortly I just want to tell you this much, keep your hands away from this matter, because ZAKO was lying to you from beginning to end."

FILE CHECK:

The files of this Sub-Detachment contain numerous reports identifying one General Andras ZAKO as a former Hungarian General who is currently serving as Chief of the MHBK with headquarters in the French Zone of Austria. He is alleged to be engaged in intelligence activities with the French. *POB HUNGARY? CIT: HUNGARY*
CC: ARMY, BUREAU, AUSTRIA, SALZBURG

ER ✓
Lajos BURGET is mentioned in the files of this Sub-Detachment as a former Hungarian Army General who resides in Salzburg, where he serves as Chief of the MHBK in Land Salzburg. He is employed with the USFA fire team at Camp Truscott.

ER ✓
Lajos NADAS is mentioned in the files of this Sub-Detachment as a former Hungarian Army General Staff Colonel, who helped organize the MHBK and who served with ZAKO and the MHBK until

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ANDRAS

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early 1952 when he broke with ZAKO and moved to Salzburg, where he is currently employed with USFA Engineers.

AGENT'S NOTES:

Prior to ZAKO's arrival in Salzburg he sent word to BURGERT to attempt to formulate a meeting between him (ZAKO) and CIC. BURGERT forwarded the information to this Agent, who verbally reported it immediately. No action was taken to meet with ZAKO.

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